(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check these activities;

(c) whether Government have held talks with these groups; and

(d) if so, the details and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) It cannot be said that there has been any spurt in militant activities in the NE States.

The steps taken by the Government to check militancy in the North Eastern States include, interalia, deployment of additional units of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; sanction of Special Central Assistance; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations'. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to hold talks with the Issac Muivah group of National Socialist Council of Nagaland which responded to the offer for talks made by the Government.

Talks with this group are continuing.

Strike by DGHC

2329. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the chairman of DGHC and the Executive Councillors called for 72 hours strike during 12th Lok Sabha elections on 2nd February, 1998;

(b) whether Government are also aware that armed threats to voters continued for days since 17th February, 1998 at Darjeeling to disrupt the election;

(c) whether the returning officer of Darjeeling did not take any steps to ensure securities of electorates; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government against such anti-national activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) The Government is aware that Gorkha National Liberation Front had called for a 72-hour Darjeeling bandh from 20th to 22nd February, 1998 and appealed to the people to boycott Parliamentary Election in the Darjeeling Parliamentary Constituency.

(b) and (c) Reports available indicate that persons drafted for polling duties were reportedly intimidated and threats were also held out to them in case they performed the election duty. State Government had taken appropriate steps to ensure smooth polling by deploying Central Para-military Forces in addition to the State Police Force, deployed in connection with the polling.

(d) Central Government is keeping a close watch over such activities, in consultation with the State Government.

Shifting of Assam Rifle's Site

2330. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the time frame to complete the construction of Assam Rifle's new site at Longa Koireng, Imphal and to shift from the existing place, Kangla, Imphal.

(b) the amount so far, released by Government for its construction; and

(c) the balance amount to be released to complete it?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) The process of shifting of Assam Rifles from Kangla Fort has already begun. An extent of 36.81 acres has already been handed over to the State Government by Assam Rifles. This process is estimated